Message Text

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R 261555Z FEB 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, AG

SUBJ: 1975 ALGIERS INTERNATIONAL FAIR

REF: ALGIERS 139

- 1. REGRET DELAYED RESPONSE TO REFTEL
- 2. DESPITE INITIAL COMMERCE SUGGESTION OF CATALOG SHOW/BUSINESS INFORMATION OFFICE DURING AMBASSADOR'S DECEMBER CONSULTATIONS, COMMERCE AT THIS TIME CANNOT PROCEED WITH THIS LEVEL OF PARTICIPATION IN FAIR BECAUSE OF BELOW-LISTED REASONS:
- A. COMMERCE IS UNDERGOING SIZEABLE TRADE PROMOTION BUDGET CUTS AND CATALOG SHOWS/BIOS ARE NOT RECEIVING PRIORITY ATTENTION FROM REMAINING BUDGET. AT LEAST ONE NORTH AFRICAN TECHNICAL SEMINAR, IN BUSINESS EQUIPMENT/

COMPUTERS, HAS ALSO BEEN DELETED FROM FY 1976 BUDGET AS HAVE OTHER EVENTS ELSEWHERE. WE DO NOT HAVE BUDGET FOR ANY PARTICIPATION IN ALGIERS FAIR. UNCLASSIFIED

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B. IF WE SPONSORED CATALOG SHOW, WE WOULD HAVE TO LIMIT IT TO ONE THEME BECAUSE OF NORMAL BUDGET LIMITATIONS WITH REGARD TO INDUSTRY EXPORTS AND IT MUST BE RECRUITABLE FROM INDUSTRY. COMPUTERS/BUSINESS EQUIPMENT THEME, SUGGESTED IN HIGGINSON/JENSEN TELCON, HAS NOT PRODUCED

ELSEWHERE ENOUGH COMPANY PARTICIPANTS TO PAY FOR CATALOG SHOW. THEMES SUCCESSFULLY PROMOTED ELSEWHERE HAVE INCLUDED FPP, BIOMEDICAL, MACHINE TOOLS, INDUSTRIAL/SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT.

- C. FROM THREE CATALOG SHOWS IN CASABLANCA AND ONE IN TUNIS WE HAVE SEEN THAT ENGLISH-LANGUAGE CATALOGS PREDOMINATE ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY DESPITE SPECIFIC REQUESTS THAT COMPANIES SEND FRENCH-LANGUAGE LITERATURE. BELIEVE UTILITY OF ENGLISH LITERATURE IN ALGIERS SHOW IS QUESTIONABLE.
- D. AT BEST CATALOG SHOW/BIO WOULD COMPARE WITH AMCONSUL SPONSORED BIO IN 1973 CASABLANCA FAIR. DESPITE STRONG INTEREST AND EFFORTS OF EMBASSY/CONSULATE STAFF TO PROMOTE A MINIMUM VISIBLE U.S. PRESENCE AT THAT FAIR, CONSULATE REPORTED THAT SHOW WAS NOT ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECEIVED BECAUSE OF ITS RELATIVE UNATTRACTIVENESS COMPARED TO OTHER FOREIGN PAVILIONS.
- E. MOST COMPANIES PARTICIPATE IN CATALOG SHOWS TO TEST MARKET AND/OR ATTRACT LOCAL AGENTS. IN ALGIERS, WE QUESTION WORTH OF CATALOG SHOW TO ACHIEVE EITHER END, BASED ON GENERAL UNSUITABILITY OR UNAVAILABILITY OF AGENTS AND WHAT WE BELIEVE WOULD BE RELATIVE UNAPPEAL OF CATALOG SHOW EITHER TO STATE ENTERPRISE/MINISTERIAL AUDIENCE OR TO GENERAL FAIR VISITORS. KISSINGER

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